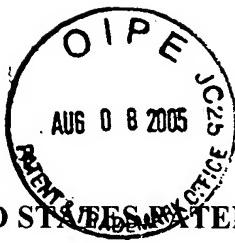


Docket No.: 049677-0154



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Customer Number: 20277
Tomomi MORIYA, et al. : Confirmation Number: 4705
Application No.: 10/796,052 : Group Art Unit: 1731
Filed: March 10, 2004 : Examiner: Sean E. Vincent
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANUFACTURING GLASS TUBE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the documents be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.

CERTIFICATION PARAGRAPH

The undersigned certifies that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR 1.97(e)(2).

Each non-English language reference was cited in a corresponding foreign application search report and its relevance discussed therein. A copy of the foreign search report, together with an English language version thereof, is attached for the Examiner's information.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

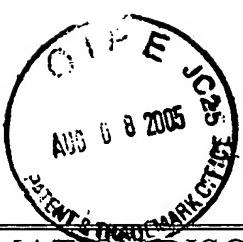
Respectfully submitted,

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**Please recognize our Customer No. 20277
as our correspondence address.**



SHEET 1 OF 1

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION (PTO-1449)			ATTY. DOCKET NO. 049677-0154	SERIAL NO. 10/796,052		
			APPLICANT Tomomi MORIYA, et al.			
			FILING DATE March 10, 2004	GROUP 1731		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Document Number Number-Kind Code ₂ (<i>if known</i>)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
	US	5,837,344	11/17/1998	Yokokawa et al.		
	US					
	US					
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	US					
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Foreign Patent Document Country Codes-Number & -Kind Codes (<i>if known</i>)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Figures Appear	Translation Yes No
		JP 04-26522 A	01/29/1992	ASAHI GLASS CO LTD.		ENGLISH ABSTRACT
		JP 2002-12433 A	01/15/2002	SUMITOMO METAL IND LTD		JAPAN (w/English Abstract)
		DE 100 44 715 C1	12/06/2001	-		X
		EP 1 061 055 A1	12/20/2000	SUMITOMO ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES, LTD		X
OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)						
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.				
EXAMINER			DATE CONSIDERED			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.